

Detection of the Human parvovirus B19 in hydrops fetalis using immunohistochemistry and Polymerase Chain Reaction in fetal organs.

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Objective : To determine whether there's an association between parvovirus B19 infection and hydrops fetalis setting in fetus at the 2nd trimester of gestation.

Methods : 29 samples of fetals affected by hydrops at the 2nd trimester are analysed. Each sample was histologically examined for viral inclusion in fetal organs, then immunohistochemical study using parvovirus B19 antibody (DAKO B0019, 1/200 dilution was done in paraffin embedded tissue (lungs, liver, thymus, kidneys, heart and placenta).

PCR analysis was done after DNA extraction from paraffin blocks and using specific primers.

Results : Apparent causes of hydrops were eliminated such as metabolic diseases, cardiac fetals or malformation. The standard histological study objectivate viral inclusion in two cases (lung tissue). Whereas, the immunohistochemical study was negative in all cases.

PCR demonstrate the presence of the viral DNA in 13 cases.

Conclusion : Our study demonstrate that the implication of parvovirus B19 must be affirmed by the use of more than one method. The negativity of the detection of this parvovirus among using histology, immunohistochemistry and PCR leads to the development of fetal hydrops at the 2nd trimester of the gestation.

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